



West  
Africa  
Regional  
Program

# WARP

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## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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### The BIG NEWS!

The BIG NEWS in the region is the locust outbreak that threatens livelihoods of people in Mauritania, Senegal, Mali and Niger. WARP's African Emergency Locust and Grasshopper Advisor, Harry Bottenberg, traveled to Mali, Mauritania, and Senegal to assess the situation in late July.



Adult locust on *Leptandanya* bush near Nema, Mauritania.

This season's excellent crops and pasture are under threat. The larval bands in Senegal and Mali will give rise to large swarms of adult locusts by early September when cereal crops start to mature and when there is a greater risk

to crop loss. While under-equipped and understaffed, Bottenberg was impressed by the fighting spirit and enthusiasm of the field staff.

There appears to be a great deal of cooperation and support for the campaign within the Ministries of Agriculture of the afflicted countries and among countries in the region as well, as shown by the Algiers July 27 meeting.

Therefore, despite the many inadequacies and the indisputable need for reinforcements, the countries are much better prepared for this outbreak than for previous ones, notably the big plague of 1986-89.

Bottenberg concluded that the affected countries urgently needed to get a better handle on the damage that the swarms will cause in the field within the next few months. He recommended that the goal of such an assessment needs to be clearly defined in terms of what use would be made of the results and how they would guide control strategies. WARP also strongly recommends that countries coordinate their requests for donor funding through the FAO.



## Regional Economic Integration

### Last Quarter Events

#### West African Trade Hub (WATH)

- **WATH and Aid to Artisans Ghana (ATAG):** WATH and ATAG joined forces to sponsor four West Africans' participation in SOURCES™, a major US trade show for foreign producers selling to the US gift and accessory market. At the WATH-sponsored booth, more than sixty companies expressed strong interest in hand-woven fabrics and other hand-crafted products ATAG exhibited. Twenty-nine of those expressed interest in container loads. Several sample orders were placed at the show.
- **WATH AGOA Resource Center (ARC) Training:** On May 10 - 12, the West African Trade Hub, in collaboration with USAID, hosted 19 representatives from AGOA Resource Centers from 12 countries in Accra, Ghana for a computer-based training on how to access and use trade information for building exports to the US under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). Participants were trained in use of the updated databank for ARCs, as well as in how to use "Trade-Map", a market research tool developed by the International Trade Center (ITC) of Geneva. Participants learned about new information on AGOA, export trade patterns and trends, and market information resources and techniques.
- **U.S. Global Sourcing Tradeshow Workshop:** In June 2004, WATH conducted a two-day technical workshop for nine West and Central African apparel manufacturers in

Accra, for companies registered to exhibit at the August 2004 ASAP Global Sourcing Tradeshow in the U.S. Industry professionals and customs officials from the U.S. and Ghana made presentations on a wide range of topics including requirements of the US apparel market, codes of conduct and workplace conditions, AGOA textile provisions and customs procedures, and global competitiveness in the apparel industry. The training was designed to improve the exhibitors' ability to speak with U.S. commercial buyers and discuss issues such as product quality, workplace conditions, processing and shipping methods



WATH Resource person showing a fabric sample

- **WATH Gambia Consultation:** WATH staffer Kofi Humado undertook a two-week assignment in April and May 2004 to The Gambia at the request of this country's Secretary of State for Trade, Industry and Employment. The purpose of the visit was to revitalize the AGOA resource center in this country, and to assess the opportunities to export seafood, textiles/industrial apparel, cashews and horticultural products into the U.S. under AGOA. The WATH staffer further studied the institutions and agencies involved in food safety,



disease control and disease management to launch the Hub's work on sanitary and phyto-sanitary (SPS) harmonization in West Africa.

### **Growth through Engendering Enterprise in ECOWAS Countries and the West African Businesswomen's Network (ECOGEE/WABNET)**

- **ECOGEE Facilitates West African Businesswomen's Network (WABNET) Executive Board Meeting:** The WABNET Executive Board met in Freetown, Sierra Leone June 4-5, 2004. The main events of the meeting, facilitated by ECOGEE, included organizational development analysis and training for WABNET officers, reviewing business and information technology skills training materials, revising the training strategy to be available in more countries, studying a report on access to financial services in West Africa, revising WABNET's strategy for access to financial services and planning the next General Assembly of WABNET, to be held in Lome, Togo, October 9-16, 2004. The opening ceremony of the meeting was the subject of a 15-minute program on Sierra Leonian television. The meeting also received local radio and newspaper coverage (which brought in many new members while the meeting was underway), as well as favorable BBC Africa Service coverage.
- **WABNET's Letter to ECOWAS Secretariat:** Among WABNET's efforts towards achieving institutional and financial sustainability was a letter sent to the ECOWAS Secretariat, requesting affiliation and observer status with ECOWAS. WABNET national chapters also decided to sponsor training and organize women-centered business activities, such as solar stoves and savings and loans institutions.

### **ECOTrade**

- **ECOTrade support for Participating CET Countries:** ECOTrade consultants traveled to Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria and Sierra Leone during the last quarter to follow up on the activities that need to be completed to ensure the optimal participation of these countries in the ECOWAS Common External Tariff (CET) project. A number of major benchmarks towards achieving the CET are expected to take place this year.
- **ECOTrade National Stakeholder Workshops:** National Stakeholder Workshops on the Common External Tariff project were held in Sierra Leone in April 2004 and in Ghana June 2004. The Workshops are intended to provide interested stakeholders with an opportunity to air their issues and closely examine the pros and cons of participation in the CET. Sierra Leone's national workshop was attended by some 90 representatives of government, business, the NGO community and the press. Ghana's workshop was attended by about 20 participants, mostly from various government agencies and a few private sector leaders. Guinea also conducted stakeholder consultations with a wide range of groups bringing together public, private and civil society representatives.
- **CET Studies Completed in Three Countries:** The Gambia, Ghana and Sierra Leone completed their national studies on the impact of adopting the CET, received government authorization to apply the new tariff schedule, and submitted these reports to ECOWAS. These reports will be discussed at a meeting of CET experts in Accra, Ghana in July 2004.



## Technical Assistance to the West African Monetary Institute (WAMI)

- **WAMI Statistical Harmonization:** A meeting of experts was held in Accra, Ghana on April 19-20, 2004 to report on progress related to the statistical harmonization in each country required by the ECOWAS-initiated proposal to create a second sub-regional zone for economic and currency integration. WARP provided support to the West African Monetary Institute for the facilitation of the meeting, participation of the members involved in this project, and production of the meeting's final report. The meeting formally adopted the Action Plan for Statistics Harmonization, prepared previously by WAMI with WARP support.
- **WAMI Macroeconomic Convergence:** Consultants to the West African Monetary Institute (WAMI) traveled to Ghana and The Gambia in June 2004 to advance macroeconomic convergence surveillance for establishing a second common currency in West Africa. They prioritized and budgeted for specific activities to improve statistics and identified information technology needs of WAMI and national statistics services.

## West African International Business Linkages Program (WAIBL)

- **West Africa International Business Linkages (WAIBL) U.S. Information and Communication Technology Conference:** On March 31, 2004, the WAIBL program, along with the Eastern Trade Council and the New Jersey Commerce and Economic Growth Commission, held its U.S.-West Africa Information and

Communication Technology Conference. The one-day conference took place in Newark, New Jersey, and closed with a reception sponsored by Verizon. More than 100 companies from Benin, Cape Verde, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, Niger, Senegal, Togo and the U.S. explored business opportunities together at the event.

- **Computer, Telecommunications and Office Equipment 2004 Fair:** WAIBL participated in this major event which took place in Lagos, Nigeria from May 17 - May 21. Organized by the U.S. Foreign Commercial Service, the fair focused on how information and communications technologies (ICTs) could help Nigeria achieve the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals. It highlighted ICT's potential for facilitating economic growth, human capital development and global trade and investment.
- **WAIBL in Benin:** Staff of the WAIBL program visited Benin from May 20 through May 26, 2004. WAIBL staff explored trade and investment potential in Benin and met with government and private sector representatives and U.S. Ambassador Wayne Neill to discuss the country's AGOA strategies.

## Upcoming Events

### ECOWAS Common External Tariff Experts Meeting in September

- **September 2004 ECOWAS CET Meeting:** An ECOWAS Meeting of Experts on the Common External Tariff will be called for the end of September 2004, including all ECOWAS member states. The meeting will address the constraints to the establishment of the regional CET that have emerged from the CET-related studies and national



discussions that have taken place to date.

#### West African Trade Hub

- **WATH Increases Efforts to Launch Support in New Sectors:** During the upcoming quarter, WATH plans to continue support to the hand-woven textiles sector while significantly increasing its level of effort in the industrially-produced textiles and apparel sector, and to launch efforts in two agricultural sectors: shea butter and processed cashews.
- **WATH/WAEMU Collaboration on Transportation and Sanitary Phyto-sanitary Standards (SPS):** WATH will continue its Trade Capacity Building initiatives with WAEMU and ECOWAS during the next quarter, including three road transportation studies and SPS country assessments for non-WAEMU ECOWAS countries.

#### ECOGEE/WABNET

- **ECOGEE Courses for Businesswomen:** The first week of August, ECOGEE plans to offer two courses for businesswomen in Senegal: One on financial management for small business owners, and one on effective business use of email.
- **ECOGEE Grants Proposal Deadline:** The next deadline for submission of small grants proposals from businesswomen and women's groups under ECOGEE is August 15, 2004. See [www.ibi-usa.com](http://www.ibi-usa.com) and click on the small grants announcement for details.

#### ECOTrade

- **ECOTrade Guinea Mission:** Another country mission to Guinea will be undertaken in mid-July, to work with the local consultant hired to draft the national negotiating

position. Following the July meetings on the ECOWAS Common External Tariff in Ghana, Guinea's national committee intends to undertake sensitization activities, including a national workshop in Conakry and missions to regional capitals.

- **Harmonization of National Positions on the Common External Tariff (CET):** The ECOTrade team will work with officials from the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat on harmonizing the national negotiating positions submitted by the non-WAEMU member states.

#### West African Monetary Institute (WAMI)

- **Issuance of Statistics Improvement Program Document:** A Statistics Improvement Document, prepared with WARP support, will be issued by WAMI in July 2004, in advance of a second meeting of the Statistics Experts Group scheduled for August 10-11, 2004. This document will present the itemized and budgeted program for the specific statistics and IT improvements needed for convergence surveillance. It is designed as a comprehensive package, to be presented to donors for funding assistance after adoption at the experts meeting, so that priority statistics harmonization needs can be expeditiously achieved.
- **Memorandum on Currency Unification:** To address ongoing concerns in some quarters about the wisdom of adopting a second common currency in West Africa, WARP will provide assistance to WAMI in the preparation of a memorandum on currency unification. This memorandum, scheduled for release prior to the next WAMZ summit meeting August



23-28, 2004, will identify the theoretical and practical pros and cons of a WAMZ common currency, and justify the member countries' commitment to its establishment.

### **West Africa International Business Linkages (WAIBL)**

- **WAIBL/West African Ambassadors Roundtable:** In August, 2004, the Corporate Council for Africa's (CCA) WAIBL program will host its third luncheon and roundtable discussion for the West African Ambassadors and their Economic Attachés in Washington, D.C. Vital to WAIBL's success has been its rapport with West African embassies in Washington and their U.S. counterparts in the region. This quarterly luncheon aims to strengthen this relationship by further engaging the West African diplomatic missions in Washington in the program.



Cameroon factory site

### **ASAP Global Apparel Sourcing Show in Las Vegas, Nevada in September**

- **ASAP Global Apparel Sourcing Show in Las Vegas, Nevada:** This Apparel Show is the world's largest garment & textile sourcing show. This year's show takes place August 29 - September 1, 2004 in Nevada. Leading apparel factories from around the world exhibit at this show attended by major global buyers. WAIBL and the West Africa Trade Hub will be sponsoring companies from Cameroon, Cape Verde, Ghana, Niger and Sierra Leone to participate in the ASAP Show. Exhibitors currently produce for: Adidas; Banana Republic; Express; The GAP; JCPenney; Jones New York; Kmart; Kalico; Lerner New York; Liz Claiborne; Limited; Marmaxx; Macy's; Nautica; Nike; Old Navy; Sears & Roebuck; Saks 5th Avenue; Target; Tommy Hilfiger; Wal-Mart; and others.

## **Reproductive Health, Nutrition, Child Survival and HIV/AIDS**

### **Last Quarter Events**

#### **HIV/AIDS Activities**

#### **Thirteen More HIV/AIDS Cross-Border Interventions**

- **More Cross-Border HIV/AIDS Interventions:** Thirteen more cross-border HIV/AIDS interventions involving seven countries are coming on line. Government and NGO participants from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, and Togo met in Lome, Togo

April 21-23 to work out details of cross-border HIV/AIDS interventions involving these countries. Sponsored by WARP's AWARE-HIV-AIDS Health project, these participants also met with their counterparts working on the World Bank CORRIDOR project which focuses on the Abidjan-Lagos corridor. AWARE and the World Bank have held several meetings to collaborate and coordinate their cross-border activities. The thirteen new sites supported by AWARE will concentrate on north-south



transportation corridors while the Bank project will focus on the main East-West coastal corridor.

- **Forging a Common West Africa Strategy in the Fight Against HIV/AIDS:** USAID /WARP Director, Carleene Dei joined WAHO Deputy Director Professor Moussa Maiga and Ghana's Minister of Health in inaugurating an ECOWAS HIV/AIDS policy agenda meeting aimed at strengthening common policies in the fight against the AIDS epidemic in the region. The workshop brought together participants from national AIDS programs and regional NGOs from 15 of the 18 countries covered by WARP. The aim of this workshop was to assist the region develop a Policy Agenda based on an analysis of the political environment of HIV/AIDS programs. At the end of the workshop, participants developed and ratified a regional policy agenda with activities and defined roles. WAHO and AWARE-HIV/AIDS will use this agenda in furthering common and concerted actions regarding HIV/AIDS policies through and by governmental ministries, sister agencies of WAHO within ECOWAS, and other key institutions, agencies and networks from both the public sector and civil society.



WARP Director at opening ceremony

### Ambassador and Islamic Scholar Support Rural Women in HIV/AIDS Prevention

- **U.S. Ambassador and Islamic Scholar HIV/AIDS Prevention**

**Effort:** U.S. Ambassador to Mauritania, J. LeBaron and top Islamic Scholar and Cleric, Hamden Ould Tah, are supporting NGOs and rural women to protect themselves against HIV/AIDS in Mauritania. With U.S. Embassy support, local Mauritanian NGOs, Terre Vivante and Stop SIDA, benefited from the second round of WARP grants in support of Embassy work in HIV/AIDS. In April 24, these two NGOs organized one of the two workshops for women working in agro-pastoral cooperatives in the Brakna and Gorgol regions. This workshop was inaugurated by the U.S. Ambassador and Hamden Ould Tah, (both in forefront of picture). A total of 41 women have been trained to become peer educators in the pastoral cooperatives.



Ambassador Le Baron and Islamic scholar at workshop

- **Identifying and Promoting Best Practices in the Prevention, Care and Treatment of HIV/AIDS:** West African Health officials/NGOs have established five task forces after a WAHO/AWARE sponsored meeting in Dakar in March, 2004, to identify promising and best practices (PBP) in various program areas in the prevention, care and treatment of HIV/AIDS. These include voluntary counseling and testing (VCT), prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT), behavior change communication (BCC), sexually transmitted infections, and care and treatment. Three of the five Task Forces (VCT, PMTCT, and Care and treatment) held planning meetings as of June 25, 2004. The outcomes



from these meetings were: 1) the finalization of the scope of work of each of the Task Forces, 2) the finalization of the tools for submission and selection of PBP, and 3) the selection of 4 PBP (2 in care and treatment, 1 in VCT, and 1 in PMTCT) out of those proposed by participants at the Dakar consensus workshop. Initial meetings for the other two Task Forces (BCC and STI) are planned between June 28 and July 3. This initiative will help improve the impact of our programs to stop the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

## Upcoming Events

- **Launch of Institutional Capacity Development Program:** From July 26-30, in Accra, AWARE-Reproductive Health and AWARE-HIV/AIDS will conduct an Orientation/Launch Workshop for the institutions and networks selected to participate in the Institutional Capacity Development (ICD) Program. As part of this workshop, the Senior Executive Cohort of the Technical Leadership Institutions/Networks (TLI/Ns) will participate in the first module of the Leadership Development Program, a two-day Leadership Dialogue. Following this event, the project will conduct comprehensive assessments of management capacity for an initial group of institutions. Workshop 2 of the Leadership Development Program is scheduled for September 8-9, 2004, in Bamako, and is being organized with CERPOD.
- **AWARE-HIV/AIDS Advocacy Tools Workshop:** AWARE/HIV-AIDS will host a regional workshop for the development of advocacy tools in Ouagadougou from July 26-30. CERPOD will assist with this workshop. It will be attended by representatives of key networks (journalists, parliamentarians, people living with HIV, NGOs, and NACPs).
- **Completion of three Mutual Health Organization Case Studies:** AWARE-RH and its partners will complete case studies of three successful Mutual Health Organizations (MHOs) in Ghana, Rwanda, and Senegal. These case studies will be used during the Mutual Health Organization Francophone Network Concertation meeting in November 2004 in Bamako and in other venues as educational tools for programs interested in establishing, reinforcing and/or scaling up MHOs in their countries.
- **The AWARE HIV/AIDS Program Review:** The AWARE/HIV-AIDS team will hold a program review in Accra on August 16-26, to enable the AWARE management team to meet individually with each partner (subgrantees) to review strategies, M&E activities, and budgets, and reorient the program as needed. This review will lead into the annual planning meeting in Accra from September 20-24.



# Food Security, Natural Resources Management & Agriculture

## Last Quarter Events

### Agricultural Production

- **WARP's IEHA Agriculture Program Approved by USAID /Washington in April, 2004:** Under the IEHA program, WARP is authorized to invest in programs promoting modern science and technology, with an emphasis in strengthening regional institutions and research by building alliances and broad-based political and financial commitment among development partners, public and private sector, in Africa and internationally for its regional agenda to increase rural incomes. These investments include those in biotechnology. WARP was also authorized to work on agricultural trade and market systems, including a regional market information system.
- **The West and Central African Council for African Research and Development (CORAF/WECAR):** CORAF is the primary body for coordinating agricultural research in West Africa. Staff members Robert Kagbo and Harry Bottenberg attended the 5th CORAF General Assembly meeting in Brazzaville, April 13-16. WARP seeks to strengthen the ability of CORAF to improve the effectiveness and coordination of agricultural research in the region. Currently, WARP is working with CORAF to determine regional priorities for agricultural biotechnologies, an area of rapidly emerging interest for countries in the region given the potential for increasing agricultural productivity.

### Ministerial Science and Technology Meeting in Ouagadougou

- **Ministerial Science and Technology Meeting:** The U.S. Department of Agriculture, USAID and the Department of State co-sponsored the Science and Technology West Africa Ministerial conference, held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from June 21-23, 2004. The conference brought together Ministers of Agriculture and Environment, and specialists in agricultural research and development to discuss ways to harness the power of science and technology for increasing agricultural production in West Africa. Of note was the consensus reached on the need for the region to take advantage of recent developments in biotechnology, referred to as the "gene revolution."

### AELGA (Locusts and Pests)

- **Harry Bottenberg, WARP AELGA Expert, coordinates training of 40 Extension Staff of the Ministry of Agriculture, Mali:** The training dealt primarily with the principles and practices of outbreak pest management, with a focus on the Desert Locust which is likely to develop into a significant outbreak this year. Trainers were provided by the Unité Nationale de Lutte Contre le Criquet Pèlerin (UNLCP) of Mali. There were two simultaneous workshops from April 26-30, one in Mopti and one in Kayes. The staff trained in the workshops will participate in the Phase III AELGA workshops for farmer leaders next year.
- **WARP AELGA Expert Carries Out Assessment:** The WARP staffer made an assessment of the locust outbreak in Guelb et Richat, Adrar region, Mauritania, April 1-6, with



the Centre de Lutte Antiacridienne and met with the Minister of Rural Development and Environment, Ahmedou Ould Ahmedou, and U.S. Ambassador Le Baron to discuss needs for control. As a result, the U.S. Embassy issued an emergency declaration allowing for immediate assistance to Mauritania. Mr. Bottenberg also briefed the Mali Mission and Ambassador Huddleston on the situation in Mali based on information provided by the Unité Nationale de Lutte contre Le Criquet Pèlerin (UNLCP). He assisted the UNLCP in processing a request for assistance from the USAID Mali mission in the amount of \$100,000 for survey vehicles and spray equipment.

## Food Security

- **The Permanent Interstate Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) Food Security Monitoring Meeting:** The CILSS food security monitoring meeting for the 2004/2005 crop season was held in Bamako, Mali, from June 2-4. Preliminary weather forecasts indicate a high probability of average rainfall this year, and a good crop forecast (granted, this is an early prediction). Only the western zone of the Sahel (the northwest of Mali, and the northern half of Senegal and Mauritania) will have a high probability of above average rainfall. On the other hand, the locust forecast for Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal is of concern.

## Implementing the Vulnerability Assessment Mechanism

- **Vulnerability Assessment Mechanism:** WARP staff met with Famine Early Warning System (FEWS), the World Food Program (WFP) and other donors to advance implementation of the Vulnerability Assessment Mechanism. The

proposed "livelihoods approach" will take crop monitoring to a new level, allowing us to better understand the impacts of shocks on people, be it from drought, conflict, or other factors. Zones at risk have been completed for Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger and a regional livelihood Zone Map has been prepared for the Sahel Region, a global first. In-depth Livelihood Profiles are almost complete for Chad, Mauritania, and Niger, with further work planned for Burkina Faso, Mali, and Senegal.

**Extraordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of CILSS Extraordinary Session of the CILSS Council of Ministers.** This important meeting took place in Nouakchott, at the end of June 2004. The purpose of this meeting is to review the status of recommendations for the restructuring of CILSS.

## Upcoming Events

### Commodity Research Networks Evaluation

**Commodity Research Networks Evaluations:** WARP currently supports research in maize, sorghum and rice through commodity research networks. There will be an evaluation of the commodity research networks to assess their relevance within the IEHA strategy. WARP has selected ARD as the consulting firm to perform the evaluation. Therefore, you can expect to hear from us as we ask for country clearance for the team during July and August. They are expected to visit: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote D'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and Togo. While their focus will be on visiting the National Agricultural Research Service in each country, they have been instructed to pay a courtesy visit to the USAID Missions and Embassies, if requested.



# West African Power Pool (WAPP) - Energy

## Last Quarter Events

- Recent media articles have reported on the **Ghanaian Parliament's ratification of the ECOWAS Energy Protocol and the West African Gas Pipeline (WAGP) Treaty**. These significant milestones have been achieved in the West African energy sector as a result of USAID-funded assistance to the development of the West African Power Pool (WAPP) and the West African Gas Pipeline (WAGP). For the past five years these programs have been managed separately by two different offices- WAPP by the West African Regional Program (WARP) and WAGP by USAID/Ghana. Beginning October 1, 2004, this assistance will be merged under the oversight of WARP. WARP's focus will be on the benefits and complementarity of managing the development WAPP and WAGP while USAID/Ghana will concentrate more on Ghana-specific energy related activities with a view to greater energy security and economic growth.

## Upcoming Events

- Ratification of the West African Gas Pipeline (WAGP) Treaty:** The Treaty establishes the legal and regulatory framework for the development and operation of WAGP. It was signed by the Heads of State of Benin, Ghana, Nigeria, and Togo and required subsequent ratification by each country. Benin and Ghana ratified the WAGP Treaty in July and Nigeria and Togo will do so in August.
- Approval of the West African Gas Pipeline (WAGP) Pipeline Development Plan (PDP):** The WAGP PDP will be approved by the West African Gas Pipeline Authority (WAGPA) by September 2004. The PDP details all aspects of WAGP operations, regulations, and tariff methodology and must be approved before the issuance of the required permits and licenses.



**Hydro electric Power from the Volta River Dam, Ghana**



# Regional Conflict Prevention

## Last Quarter Events

- **Conflict Technical Advisory Group Meeting:** On June 10 and 11 WARP held its annual Conflict Mitigation and Anti-corruption Technical Advisory Group meeting. Sixteen colleagues from USAID s and US Embassies throughout the West Africa region participated in fruitful discussions on the WARP CMAC (Conflict Mitigation and Anti-corruption) program, the bilateral anti-conflict programs in the region, as well as technical discussions on such topics as Islamic Extremism in the West Africa n region and the development of the ECOWAS conflict early warning system and ECOWAS conflict mitigation activities. Participants included representatives from the USAID Regional Offices in Nairobi and Dakar, USAID/Washington, USAID bilateral missions and U.S. Embassy representatives from West Africa n countries that do not have USAID Missions. There was also discussion of the current tensions in Cote D'Ivoire and the reconstruction activities in Liberia.
- **New Staffer for WARP's Conflict Mitigation and Anti-Corruption Team:** WARP is pleased to welcome Dr. Edward Soyir-Yariga to its staff. Dr. Soyir-Yariga comes to us from the University of Development studies in Tamale, Ghana where he was Director of Research and Training and Professor for Peace-Building Education. He will serve as Conflict Mitigation Advisor for WARP's Conflict Mitigation and Anti-Corruption program.
- **Annual Program Statement (APS):** WARP is happy to announce that it has received a number of very pertinent conflict mitigation/peace-building proposals

in response to its Annual Program Statement which states our program objectives and requests relevant proposals. Some of these proposals will be funded directly by WARP while others were referred to other USAID offices for possible funding. We anticipate our next APS will be published on the USAID public website in September.

- **Oil and Gas in Africa:** WARP's new staffer Edward Soyir-Yariga attended the Oil and Gas In Africa workshop held in London in May 2004 by the Royal Institute of International Affairs. The workshop examined issues of conflict and corruption in the oil and gas industries throughout Africa, especially the first generation nations such as Angola, Cameroon, Chad, and Nigeria. Participants explored the lessons learned from these experiences in order to promote greater transparency and equity in the new generation of oil producing states such as Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, and Sao Tome & Principe.

## Peacebuilding in Western Gambia

- **Enhancing Economic Stability and Social Unity in the Western Division of the Gambia (ESSU):** This project, which is implemented by Concern Universal (CU) saw a significant increase in activity across all aspects of the program, but particularly in the areas of cross-border conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and rehabilitation of infrastructure. Concern Universal and its partners recently held a series of peacebuilding events in border communities in Gambia, to which many Gambians are returning from Senegal's Casamance region. Thousands of people were gathered together over several weeks to



promote reconciliation, healing, dialogue, and celebration of local people and culture. Community members reported to us that many rebels came out from the camps to participate and spoke with others to say how much they have missed the enjoyment of communal life and public celebration.



**Cultural Rally in Western Gambia**

Others reported that the events allowed them to resolve or forget many conflicts that existed previously in their communities. Several partners on the ESSU project are engaged with other CU development initiatives, which complement the goals and objectives of ESSU program activities and therefore open up new opportunities to target communities, particularly in the area of enterprise development.

- **WANEP Participates in Third Tripartite Meeting of an ECOWAS Technical Working Group (TWG):** The TWG is composed of representatives from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), UNDP, and WANEP itself. The TWG is addressing the critical issue of rendering operational ECOWAS Mechanism on Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peace and Security. Representatives from the Southern African Development Cooperation (SADC) also attended the meeting. The meeting revised the program for the TWG and set a time frame for its implementation. The assessment of ECOWAS' current conflict prevention mechanism/training needs and capacities conducted in the second

quarter of Year 1 was revised to bring it in line with ECOWAS's own current capacity-building issues. The first training/consultation workshop to assist in developing the ECOWAS Conflict Early Warning System took place in May in Elmina, Ghana. Representatives from civil society, regional peacebuilding organizations, and ECOWAS met to develop the initial modalities and procedures for the conflict early warning system.

#### **WANEP and the Sahel and West Africa**

**Club:** WANEP participated in a meeting of the Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC) to finalize the work plan of the Club as well as agree on Terms of Reference that will guide its work in 2004. Some of the key activities to be undertaken include a forum on political parties and the media; a meeting of mayors of the cities of Bobo Dioulasso, Korhogo, and Sikasso with local actors of civil society in Korhogo, Côte d'Ivoire. Another activity will be a forum for women.

### **Upcoming Events**

- **Conflict APS:** Interested parties should monitor the USAID public website for the next round of submissions in response to WARP's Annual Program Statement which is scheduled for publication in September.
- **Workshop on Conflict and the Design of Development Projects:** A workshop, sponsored by WARP and its partner offices at USAID, on the integration of conflict issues in the planning of development projects is planned for the fall. The date and venue will be announced.
- **WANEP Workshops:** WANEP will conduct two more workshops for civil society and ECOWAS peacebuilders to help establish a working Conflict Early Warning



System for West Africa. These are scheduled to take place during the next three months in Banjul and Cotonou.

- **The Population Media**

**Center:** This program broadcasts radio messages about the spread of HIV/AIDS and the trafficking of children using soap operas to communities along the Burkina Faso, Cote D'Ivoire, and Mali borders. Radio messaging is expected to begin in the next

quarter. In the past quarter the project focused on staff recruitment, development of program documents, and several base-line/preparatory workshops.

## Special Focus



A Ministerial Conference centered on harnessing the power of science and technology to improve agriculture took place in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso from June 21-23, 2004 and was attended by key individuals responsible for the advancement of science and technology in agriculture in West Africa. The event was organized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Government of Burkina Faso, with financial and technical support from the U.S. State Department and USAID /WARP.

### West Africa Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology: Getting Africa a Seat on the Gene Revolution Train

The Heads of State of Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, and Niger made presentations at the opening ceremonies. Among the 300 participants were thirteen West African Ministers representing agriculture, natural resources, science and technology, the heads of all major agricultural research organizations, and heads of the region's intergovernmental organizations, including the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU).

The conference began with a roundtable entitled *"Perspectives in Harnessing Science and Technology to Improve Agriculture Productivity in West Africa."* It was followed by four plenary sessions:

- **Water** - its conservation, use efficiency, and new management technologies for West Africa;
- **Crop Biotechnology and Biosafety** - for improved productivity, control of plant diseases and pests, and enhanced drought tolerance;



- **Policies** - regulatory frameworks and upgraded institutional capacity to improve agricultural productivity, technology transfer, and economic growth; and
- **Partnerships** - for improving the commodity chain for staples and high value crops.

The conference topics elicited extremely interesting and well-informed discussions, reflecting the high levels of knowledge and experience of the participants. Biotechnology (Bt) proved to be the hottest topic at the conference.



Delegates at the WARP booth

The phrase that summarized the feelings of most of the participants was the following: " *The Bt train is about to leave the station and if Africa is not on it, then it will be left behind at the station once again.*" Time and again, participants pointed out that Africa had missed the "Green Revolution" that had catapulted many Asian and Latin American countries out of chronic food insecurity. Today, opportunity was again knocking on Africa's door in the form of the "Gene Revolution" and if Africa failed to get on the train this time, then its future would be bleak.

Not everyone was totally convinced that Bt was the cure for the region's ills. Representatives of the region's small farmers expressed fears regarding the potential negative environmental impacts of Bt, as well as their deep concern that Bt products might not be made available on an equal basis and that their constituents, the poor farmers who constitute the majority of the inhabitants in West Africa, would be passed over. But this was a minority point of view. In general, the delegates believed that improved agricultural science and technology, and in particular Bt, was the most obvious solution to the region's economic and food security challenges and that the region's leaders should do whatever was necessary to get it into the hands of its producers.

The region's policy makers expressed a strong commitment to improving the livelihoods of poor farmers and general population through the adoption of a wide range of modern scientific technologies, in particular biotechnology. Public/private sector partnerships such as that developed between Monsanto and the Government of Burkina Faso for the field testing of Bt cotton would be key to implementing change.

A follow-on high-level conference is scheduled to take place in Bamako, Mali in December 2004 when the region's leaders will propose concrete programs and next steps for implementing a science-based program to increase agricultural productivity.



# Regional Environmental Advisor Update

## Last Quarter Events

### Needs Assessment of Sierra Leone National Park

**Sierra Leone:** The REA provided technical assistance to the U.S. Embassy in Freetown by conducting a needs assessment of Outamba-Kilimi National Park. The REA also helped USAID Guinea/Sierra Leone to review documentation and detail steps that need to be taken for environmental compliance in relation to diamond mining.

**Benin:** The REA visited the Mission and provided technical assistance by reviewing the status of the Mission's Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) and providing guidance on the development of a new Agriculture/Natural Resources-focused economic growth program.

### Support to Senegal Mission

**Senegal:** The REA reviewed the Agriculture/Natural Resource Management Program's IEE and provided technical assistance on the design of the forest inventory activity. Assistance was also provided to the Food for Peace office, Health Team, and the Contracting Office.

### Urban Plastic Waste Project Award

**Urban Plastic Waste Initiatives:** WARP was awarded a matching grant from the Urban Program for the development of the

Regional Urban Plastic Waste Initiative (Accra, Lome, and Niamey). The REA began project field work in Lome the second week of June by meeting ministry officials and representatives of waste collector associations.

## Upcoming Events

### Support for CILSS

**Burkina Faso/CILSS:** At their request, the REA will visit the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) to assess interest and capacity to conduct environmental training.

**Technical Assistance to Mali:** In association with the USAID/Mali Mission, USAID's Environmental Office in Washington and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the REA will conduct an assessment of Malian Environment Ministry's capacity to conduct environmental assessments.

**Ghana and Cote D'Ivoire:** The REA is scheduled to complete design work for a Natural Resource Transboundary Initiative by the end of September.

**Guinea and Sierra Leone:** The REA will continue to work on the design phase of a Natural Resource Transboundary Initiative.

\* Missions requiring the services of the Environmental Advisor should contact him at [Rclausen@usaid.gov](mailto:Rclausen@usaid.gov) as early as possible given the high level of demand.



